

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 057120

R 280850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5091

INFO USDAO/ ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E9. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI, PCJD DM

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KEREKOU PROMOTED

1. PRESIDENT KEREKOU'S PROMOTION TO LT COLONEL WAS ANNOUNCED APRIL
26. DECISION WAS TAKEN AT SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
CABINET AND MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. PROMOTION IS TO BE
RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1973. MRGD JUSTIFIED SPECIAL PROMOTION
ON GROUNDS THAT IT HAD BEEN DONE TO REDRESS "UNJUST" DELAY OF
SEVEN MONTHS IN KEREKOU'S PROMOTION TO MAJOR. THIS, IN TURN,
RETARDED HIS ELIGIBILITY FOR PROMOTION TO LT COLONEL. UNDER
DAHOMEAN ARMY REGULATIONS, AN OFFICER IS ELIGIBLE FOR PROMOTION
TO LT CMHONEL AFTER FOUR
YEARS AS MAJOR. ORIGINAL DELAY IN PRO-
MOTION RESULTED, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, FROM
KEREKOU'S "INTEGRITY" AND "RECTITUDE".

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2. KEREKOU NOW IS HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER ON ACTIVE DUTY IN DAHO-

MEAN ARMY. OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS ARE IN JAIL, EXILE, OR FARMED OUT TO PARA-STATAL COMPANIES. DOUBT THAT THIS PROMOTION IS KEREKOU'S FIRST STEP IN FAMILIAR QUICK ELEVATION TO LOFTY MILITARY RANK. FACT, HOWEVER, THAT HIS MILITARY EQUALS AND JUNIORS HOLDING MINISTERIAL POSITIONS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR PROMOTION MAY AUGER WELL FOR MORE SOLIDARITY AMONG THESE YOUNG OFFICERS. THERE IS AITH WAS SECTION OF SWEDEN WHICH HAD BEEN PRINTED IN FULL IN NEWS-PAPERS. HE SAID HE HAD READ THAT SECTION " WHICH I SUPPOSE WAS IMPORTANT PART FOR US." I SAID IN MY JUDGMENT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF REPORT WAS NOT REVIEW OF PAST HISTORY BUT PROJECTIONS OF U. S. FOREIGN POLICY FOR 1973 AND BEYOND, RECOMMENDING NINE POINTS IN INTRODUCTION IN PARTICULAR. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK AT THE REPORT FROM THAT VIEWPOINT.

4. COMMENT: WICKMAN WAS CORDIAL AND IN GOOD HUMOR BUT APPEARED TO BE DELIBERATELY RESTRAINED AND DIFFIDENT IN REACTING TO AN EXPRESSION OF U. S. FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS. I HAD IMPRESSION THAT HE FEELS USG AND SECRETARY PERSONALLY ARE LITTLE INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT SWEDEN HAS TO SAY ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE - OR HIS GOVERNMENT - FEELS THAT CONDITIONS FOR A PROPER DIALOGUE BETWEEN USG AND GOS DO NOT NOW EXIST. IN ANY EVENT, I DO NOT EXPECT THAT WICKMAN WILL COME FORWARD WITH SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OLSEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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